

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the heading at page 1, line 6, with the following amended heading:

~~STATE OF THE PRIOR TECHNOLOGY~~ DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

Please replace the heading at page 2, line 25, with the following amended heading:

~~DISCLOSURE~~ BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the eighth full paragraph at page 2 with the following amended paragraph:

~~This~~ The object of this invention is to remedy ~~these~~ the disadvantages of the prior art and ~~namely to provide~~ by providing fouling reducing devices for tubular heat exchangers, ~~that~~ wherein the fouling reducing devices resist corrosion.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 with the following amended paragraph:

~~With this end in mind~~ Accordingly, this invention proposes there is provided a fouling reducing device for tubular heat exchangers of the type that comprise at least one turbulence-generating element set inside one of the tubes of said exchanger, ~~and, The fouling reducing device comprises a turbulence-generating element. when used~~ When in use, in the turbulence-generating element is brought in contact with an environment that contains hydrocarbons, namely crude oil[[,]]. The turbulence-generating element is characterized in that ~~said element meant to be in contact with the hydrocarbons~~ it is made of a metallic alloy with a nickel content that is greater than 50% by weight, and that, in addition, it comprises at least one metal chosen from the group consisting of chrome and molybdenum, in order to improve its resistance to corrosion.

Please replace the first full paragraph at page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

According to another characteristic of the turbulence-generating element of the ~~invention's device~~ present invention, in order for ~~the later it~~ it to ~~be resist~~ be resistant to corrosion when stretched, the metallic alloy of which it is made has a chrome[[,]] (TCr) and molybdenum[[,]] (TMo)[[,]] content expressed in % by weight of the alloy, so that the following relation can be verified:

$$\text{TCr} + 3.3 \times \text{TMo} > 36\% \text{ by weight of the metallic alloy.}$$

Please replace the second full paragraph at page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

According to another characteristic of ~~this~~ the turbulence-generating element of the ~~invention's device~~ present invention, the metallic alloy of which it is made comprises the following metals, in the indicated content ranges:

- nickel: between 55 and 65% by weight,
- chrome: between 20 and 25% by weight,
- molybdenum: between 5 and 10% by weight,
- niobium: between 2.5 and 4% by weight, and
- iron: to complete at 100%.

Please replace the third full paragraph at page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

In general, the ~~invention's~~ fouling reducing device of the present invention is used to reduce the fouling of tubular heat exchangers wherein circulate corrosive liquids.

Please replace the fourth full paragraph at page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Furthermore, this alloy has a tensile strength of 1650 ~~Mpa~~ MPa, much greater than that of titanium, which is in the 700 MPa range, and is largely sufficient for the fouling reducing devices to operate correctly.

Please replace the fifth full paragraph at page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

This invention is not limited to exchangers wherein circulates crude oil[[,]]. ~~It~~ It can also be applied to petrochemical unit exchangers wherein circulate other corrosive hydrocarbons.

Please replace the seventh full paragraph at page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

These fouling reducing devices are in the shape of solenoids made from a metallic alloy wire with a diameter of 1.2 mm that contains 64.9% of nickel and 8.75% of molybdenum, as defined ~~below~~ above.

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 10/058,102

Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure and replace it with the following
~~new Abstract of the Disclosure.~~

A fouling reducing device for the tubes of a tubular heat exchanger of the type that contains at least one turbulence-generating element lodged inside one of the tubes of the exchanger. The fouling reducing device is a turbulence-generating element made of a metallic alloy with a nickel content that is greater than 50% by weight, and further made of at least one metal chosen from among chrome and molybdenum. The turbulence-generating element has an improved resistance to corrosion when in contact with a hydrocarbon, such as crude oil.